

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6412

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AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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STATE FOR CU/EE, PASS IREX, LENINGRAD FOR P&C/SHEEHAN;
USIA FOR IEE

E.O. 11652: ADS DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT

TAGS: OEXC UR

SUBJ: EXCHANGES: VISIT OF IREX REPRESENTATIVES

REF: MOSCOW 0594

1. HERewith SUMMARY OF CURRENT EXCHANGE PROBLEMS FOR
IREX/DEPARTMENT CONSIDERATION BEFORE KASSOF ET AL TRIP
JANAURY 26.

2. INCREASED NUMBER OF GSE EXCHANGEES (40 TO 50, AND FULL
ACCEPTANCE FOR FIRST TIME) HAS RESULTED IN UNDESIREd
SPILLOVER TO LENINGRAD. NUMBER OF MOSCOW PLACEMENTS WAS
NOT INCREASED BY SOVIETS FOR 1974-75 (AND EVEN DROPPED
BY ONE), BUT LENINGRAD PLACEMENTS ROSE TO SEVENTEEN.
SEVERAL OF THESE HAD REQUESTED MOSCOW AND HAVE PROJECTS
FOR WHICH MOSCOW ARCHIVES ARE INDISPENSABLE. THIS
RESULTS IN UNHAPPY EXCHANGEES AND LONG HAGGLE OVER KOMANDIROVKI,
WHILE SOVIETS CLAIM MGU IS UNDER GREAT HOUSING PRESSURE.
KOMANDIROVKI SCHEDULES HAVE NOW BEEN MADE, BUT THE LENGTH
OF TIME IN MOSCOW STILL AN ISSUE. SOVIETS HAVE TOLD LENIN-
GRADERS THEY MAY EXTEND THERE IF THEY CAN TRADE ROOMS WITH A
MOSCOW EXCHANGEe WHO IS TRAVELLING , BUT GENERAL SOLUTION HAS
NOT YET BEEN FOUND. LENINGRADERS NOW HOUSED AT UNIVERSITY

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HOTEL; VARIED ADDITIONAL CHARGES FOR DEPENDENTS IN ROOMS

WILL BE ANOTHER ISSUE.

3. TWELVE OF SEVENTEEN LENINGRAD EXCHANGEES HAVE DEPENDENTS, AND LENINGRAD HOUSING IS MORE CRAMPED, RESULTING IN CROWDED, INEFFICIENT STUDY CONDITIONS AND REAL HARDSHIP FOR THOSE WITH CHILDREN.

4. SUGGEST PLACEMENT TALKS FOR FUTURE YEARS, INCLUDING JANUARY MEETING, SHOULD DEAL WITH ISSUE OF USING LENINGRAD AS SPILLOVER POINT FOR EXCHANGEES SOVIETS DON'T WISH TO ACCOMMODATE IN MOSCOW. IF SOVIETS IN FACT WILL NOT RAISE WHAT APPEARS TO BE MOSCOW QUOTA, AND IF TRADITIONAL HISTORY/LITERATURE EXCHANGEES CONTINUE TO CONCENTRATE DESIRES ON MOSCOW ARCHIVES AND MGU, SUGGEST U.S. SIDE CONSIDER WHETHER WE ALREADY ARE SERVING SUFFICIENTLY THESE TRADITIONAL FIELDS AND SHOULD OURSELVES IMPOSE A QUOTA OF AVAILABLE GRANTS.

5. BELIEVE RECENT TREND TOWARD SOCIAL SCIENCE/LINGUISTICS EXCHANGES SEEKING PLACEMENT IN MOSCOW INSTITUTES OTHER THAN MGU AND IN CITIES OTHER THAN MOSCOW/LENINGRAD SERVES BOTH U.S. INTERESTS AND INTERESTS OF EXCHANGEES THEMSELVES. MOST HAVE HAD VARIED, REWARDING ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AND MORALE OFTEN IS HIGHER THAN AMONG THOSE TREADING THE MGU-MOSCOW ARCHIVES PATH. SUGGEST THIS TREND BE ENCOURAGED AS FAR AS APPROPRIATE TO DEMAND FROM ACADEMIC COMMUNITY. ON OTHER HAND, FORCING HISTORY/LITERATURE EXCHANGEES TO WORK IN OTHER CITY WHEN HIS MAIN INTEREST IS IN MOSCOW ARCHIVES CAN ONLY BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

6. FOR SENIOR SCHOLAR PROGRAM, TWO PROBLEMS ARE DEPENDENT HOUSING AND TIMELY ACCESS TO ARCHIVES. MHE HAS PRONOUNCED ITSELF HELPLESS IN RESOLVING EXTRA ROOM QUESTION FOR THOSE WITH CHILDREN. OPTIONS FACING PROGRAM SEEM TO BE (A) CUT BACK ON NUMBER IN EACH DIRECTION, LIMITING PROGRAM TO THOSE WITHOUT CHILDREN, (B) IREX PAYING LARGE SUMS FOR EXTRA HOTEL ROOM, (C) AGREEING IN ADVANCE (BOTH MHE AND GRANTEE) ON A BLOK AT MGU DORMITORY, AND (D) LETTING GRANTEES WITH CHILDREN SUFFER IN ONE ROOM AS BEFORE. BELIEVE (D) AND EVEN (B) ARE UNACCEPTABLE IN LONG RUN. SUGGEST IREX DISCUSS PROS AND CONS OF (A) AND (C) WITH MHE DURING VISIT.

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7. FELDMAN, WHEELER, AND PIERCE HAVE HAD EXTENSIVE DELAYS AND FAILURES ON ARCHIVAL ACCESS, UNDERMINING THEIR GRANT PURPOSES. SUGGEST IREX CONSIDER WHETHER MORE RIGID ADVANCE PLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS, A FEATURE WHICH HAS IMPROVED THE JUNIOR PROGRAM THIS YEAR, SHOULD BE APPLIED TO SENIOR PROGRAM. NOT CONSIDERING A SCHOLAR PLACED UNTIL HIS SPECIFIC ARCHIVAL ACCESS IS ASSURED MAY RESULT IN SOME

SCHOLARS NOT COMING, BUT MAY ALSO SAVE MUCH TIME AND EFFORT
FOR OTHERS. THIS PROCEDURE MORE DIFFICULT RESOLVE
WITH SENIOR PROGRAM, AND IREX REQUESTED REVIEW ISSUE. AT
LEAST, SCHOLAR SHOULD HAVE BEFORE HE COMES MORE REALISTIC
IDEA OF WHAT HE MAY GET OR NOT GET, AND BE ABLE MAKE
DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO COME.

8. SEE REFTEL ON ROOM CHARGE FOR DEPENDENTS IN MGU DORMITORY.

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